

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**1. Listing of Claims:**

1. (Original) An assembly for insertion into a body passageway comprising:
  - a. a cylindrical-shaped member having first and second ends, a longitudinal axis between said ends, one or more structural members between said ends defining a peripheral wall, and a longitudinal passage along said longitudinal axis between said ends, said cylindrical-shaped member having a first diameter which permits intraluminal delivery of said cylindrical-shaped member into a body passageway having a lumen, and second diameter greater than said first diameter, whereby said cylindrical-shaped member is expandable to contact or to expand the lumen of the body passageway;
  - b. a blood vessel within said longitudinal passage of said cylindrical-shaped member, said blood vessel being at least as long as said axial extent of said longitudinal passage and having a radial extent corresponding to the radial extent of said peripheral wall when said cylindrical-shaped member is in an expanded condition; and
  - c. securing means for securing said blood vessel within said cylindrical-shaped member to cause said blood vessel to move with said cylindrical-shaped member to and from said first diameter and said second diameter.
2. (Original) The assembly according to claim 1 wherein said blood vessel has a length longer than said longitudinal passage of said cylindrical-shaped member and said blood vessel extends beyond at least one of said first and second ends of said cylindrical-shaped member.
3. (Original) The assembly according to claim 2 wherein said blood vessel is folded over a respective edge of said end and overlies at least a portion of the external surface of said peripheral wall of said end.
4. (Original) An assembly for insertion into a body passageway comprising:
  - a. a cylindrical-shaped member having first and second ends, a longitudinal axis between said ends, one or more structural members between said ends defining a peripheral wall, and a longitudinal passage along said longitudinal axis between said ends, said cylindrical-shaped member having a first diameter which permits intraluminal delivery of

said cylindrical-shaped member into a body passageway having a lumen, and second diameter greater than said first diameter, whereby said cylindrical-shaped member is expandable to contact or to expand the lumen of the body passageway;

b. a blood vessel within said longitudinal passage of said cylindrical-shaped member, said blood vessel having a length longer than said longitudinal passage and having a radial extent corresponding to the radial extent of said peripheral wall when said cylindrical-shaped member is in an expanded condition, wherein said blood vessel extends beyond both of said ends and is folded over respective edges at both of said ends; and

c. securing means for securing said blood vessel within said cylindrical-shaped member to cause said blood vessel to move with said cylindrical-shaped member to and from said first diameter and said second diameter.

5. (Original) The assembly according to claim 1 or 4 wherein said structural member is in the form of a wire formed into a serpentine configuration including a plurality of loops with cusps of adjacent loops in opposing orientation forming an overlap region which adjusts to provide said first and second diameters.

6. (Original) The assembly according to claim 1 or 4 wherein said cylindrical-shaped member is a thin walled tubular member, and said one or more structural members define opening in the form of slots being disposed substantially parallel to the longitudinal axis of the tubular member, said slots being deformable to a fixed shape forming a fixed framework to support said blood vessel.

7. (Original) The assembly according to claim 1 or 4 wherein said one or more structural members have a substantially uniform thickness which is maintained during adjustment between first and second positions defining said first and second diameters which are outer diameters of said cylindrical-shaped member.

8. (Original) The assembly according to claim 1 or 4 wherein said securing means comprises glue.

9. (Original) The assembly according to claim 1 or 4 wherein said securing means comprises welds.

10. (Original) The assembly according to claim 1 or 4 wherein said securing means comprises stitches.

11. (Original) An assembly for insertion into a body passageway comprising:

a. a cylindrical-shaped member having first and second ends, longitudinal axis between said ends, one or more structural members between said ends defining a peripheral wall, and longitudinal passage along said longitudinal axis between said ends, said cylindrical-shaped member having a first diameter which permits intraluminal delivery of said cylindrical-shaped member into a body passageway having a lumen, and second diameter greater than said first diameter, whereby said cylindrical-shaped member is expandable to contact or to expand the lumen of the body passageway;

b. a blood vessel within said longitudinal passage of said cylindrical-shaped member, said blood vessel having a length longer than said axial extent of said longitudinal passage and having a radial extent corresponding to the radial extent of said peripheral wall when said cylindrical-shaped member is in an expanded condition, and wherein said blood vessel extends beyond at least one of said first and second ends of said cylindrical-shaped member, said blood vessel is folded over a respective edge of said end and overlies at portion of the external surface of said peripheral wall of said end, and wherein said blood vessel encompasses the entire external surface of said cylindrical-shaped member; and

c. securing means for securing said blood vessel within said cylindrical-shaped member to cause said blood vessel to move with said cylindrical-shaped member to and from said first diameter and said second diameter.

12. (Original) An assembly for insertion into a body passageway comprising:

a. a cylindrical-shaped member having first and second ends, a longitudinal axis between said ends, one or more structural members between said ends, one or more structural members between said ends defining a peripheral wall, and a longitudinal passage along said longitudinal axis between said ends, said cylindrical-shaped member having a first diameter which permits intraluminal delivery of said cylindrical-shaped member into a body passageway having a lumen, and second diameter greater than said first diameter, where said cylindrical-shaped member is expandable to contact or to expand the lumen of the body passageway;

- b. a blood vessel within said longitudinal passage of said cylindrical-shaped member, said blood vessel being at least as long as said axial extent of said longitudinal passage and having a radial extent corresponding to the radial extent of said peripheral wall when said cylindrical-shaped member is an expanded condition;
- c. securing means for securing said blood vessel within said cylindrical-shaped member to cause said blood vessel to move with said cylindrical-shaped member to and from said first diameter and said second diameter; and
- d. a delivery sheath which encompasses said cylindrical-shaped member and said blood vessel.

13. (Original) A assembly for insertion into a body passageway comprising:

- a. a cylindrical-shaped member having first and second ends, longitudinal axis between said ends, one or more structural members between said ends defining a peripheral wall and a longitudinal passage along said longitudinal axis between said ends, said cylindrical-shaped member having a first diameter which permits intraluminal delivery of said cylindrical-shaped member into a body passageway having a lumen, and second diameter greater than said first diameter, whereby said cylindrical-shaped member is expandable to contact or to expand the lumen of the body passageway;
- b. a blood vessel within said longitudinal passage of said cylindrical-shaped member, said blood vessel being at least as long as said axial extent of said longitudinal passage and having a radial extent corresponding to the radial extent of said peripheral wall when said cylindrical-shaped member is an expanded condition;
- c. securing means for securing said blood vessel within said cylindrical-shaped member to cause said blood vessel to move with said cylindrical-shaped member to and from said first diameter and said second diameter; and
- d. expansion means within said cylindrical-shaped member for radially expanding said cylindrical-shaped member within a body passageway.

14. (Original) The assembly according to claim 13 wherein said means for radially expanding is a balloon catheter, said balloon catheter being received within said longitudinal passage and extending along said longitudinal axis, whereby as said balloon catheter is inflated, said balloon contacts said blood vessel and said cylindrical-shaped member to radially expand said blood vessel and said cylindrical-shaped member.

15. (Original) An assembly for insertion into a body passageway comprising:

a. a cylindrical-shaped member having first and second ends, a longitudinal axis between said ends, one or more structural members between said ends defining a peripheral wall, and a longitudinal passage along said longitudinal axis between said ends, said cylindrical-shaped member having a first diameter which permits intraluminal delivery of said cylindrical-shaped member into a body passageway having a lumen, and second diameter greater than said first diameter, whereby said cylindrical-shaped member is expandable to contact or to expand the lumen of the body passageway and wherein said one or more structural members are adjustable to said second diameter by deformation, by stress relief, by hinges between said structural members, or by increasing the thickness of said structural members;

b. a blood vessel within said longitudinal passage of said cylindrical-shaped member, said blood vessel being at least as long as said axial extent of said longitudinal passage and having a radial extent corresponding to the radial extent of said peripheral wall when said cylindrical-shaped member is in an expanded condition; and

c. securing means for securing said blood vessel within said cylindrical-shaped member to cause said blood vessel to move with said cylindrical-shaped member to and from said first diameter and said second diameter.

16. (Original) The assembly according to claim 1, 3, 4, 11, 12, 13 or 15 wherein said blood vessel is a vein.

17. (Original) The assembly according to claim 1, 3, 12, 13 or 15 wherein said blood vessel has a length about as long as said longitudinal passage of said cylindrical-shaped member.

18. (Original) A method for implanting a composite graft within a body passageway comprising:

a. providing a composite prosthesis comprising an expandable member comprising a cylindrical-shaped member having first and second ends, a longitudinal axis between said ends, one or more structural members between said ends defining a peripheral wall, and a longitudinal passage along said longitudinal axis between said ends; and a blood

vessel carried by said cylindrical-shaped member within said longitudinal passage, said blood vessel being at least as long as said axial extent of said longitudinal passage and having a radial extent corresponding to the radial extent of said peripheral wall when said cylindrical-shaped member is in an expanded condition;

- b. disposing said prosthesis on a catheter;
- c. inserting said prosthesis and catheter within a body passageway by catheterization of the body passageway; and
- d. expanding said prosthesis to bring said prosthesis into contact with the body passageway and to implant said prosthesis in the passageway.

19. (Original) The method according to claim 18 wherein the expanding of said prosthesis causes enlargement of the lumen of the body passageway.

20. (Original) A method for forming a composite graft comprising:

- a. providing an expandable member comprising a cylindrical-shaped member having first and second ends, a longitudinal axis between said ends, one or more structural members between said ends defining a peripheral wall, and a longitudinal passage along said longitudinal axis between said ends;
- b. providing a blood vessel having a length greater than the axial extent of said passage of said cylindrical-shaped member;
- c. positioning the blood vessel within said longitudinal passage of said cylindrical-shaped member so that a portion of said blood vessel protrudes from at least one of said ends;
- d. folding said protruding portion of said blood vessel over the edge of said end and over at least a portion of the external surface of said peripheral wall; and
- e. securing said blood vessel to said cylindrical-shaped member.

21. (Original) The method according to claim 20 wherein step (c) is conducted so that the blood vessel protrudes from both of said ends and step (d) is conducted at both of said ends.

22. (Previously presented) An assembly for use within a body comprising:

an expandable member having an interior surface defining a longitudinal passage, the expandable member being expandable from a first geometrically stable configuration to a second geometrically stable configuration; and

a blood vessel disposed adjacent to the interior surface of the expandable member.

23. (Previously presented) The assembly of claim 22, wherein the expandable member is cylindrical-shaped.

24. (Previously presented) The assembly of claim 22 wherein the expandable member comprises a stent.

25. (Previously presented) The assembly of claim 22, wherein the expandable member has a first configuration to allow for insertion of the assembly into a lumen in the body.

26. (Previously presented) The assembly of claim 25, wherein the expandable member has a second configuration whereby a diameter of the longitudinal passageway approximately matches a diameter of the lumen.

27. (Canceled)

28. (Previously presented) The assembly of claim 22, wherein the blood vessel is disposed adjacent to an exterior surface of the expandable member.

29. (Previously presented) The assembly of claim 22, wherein the blood vessel is at least as long as the longitudinal passage.

30. (Previously presented) The assembly of claim 22, wherein a portion of the blood vessel extends beyond at least one end of the longitudinal passage.

31. (Previously presented) The assembly of claim 30, wherein the portion of the blood vessel that extends beyond the end of the longitudinal passage folds back over a first

end of the expandable member to a position adjacent to an exterior surface of the expandable member.

32. (Previously presented) The assembly of claim 31, wherein the extending portion of the blood vessel folds back to form a sleeve.

33. (Canceled)

34. (Canceled)

35. (Canceled)

36. (Canceled)

37. (Canceled)

38. (Previously presented) An assembly for insertion into a body passageway comprising:

an expandable member having an interior surface defining a longitudinal passage, the expandable member being expandable from a first geometrically stable configuration to a second geometrically stable configuration; and

a tissue disposed adjacent to the interior surface of the expandable member, wherein the tissue comprises a body tissue, wherein the body tissue comprises a blood vessel.

39. (Previously presented) The assembly of claim 38, wherein the blood vessel comprises at least one of a recently extracted blood vessel and a thawed blood vessel which had been previously extracted and frozen.

40. (Previously presented) The assembly of claim 38, wherein the blood vessel comprises a vein.

41. (Previously presented) An assembly for insertion into a body passageway comprising:

an expandable member having an interior surface defining a longitudinal passage, the expandable member being expandable from a first geometrically stable configuration to a second geometrically stable configuration; and



a tissue disposed adjacent to the interior surface of the expandable member,  
wherein the tissue comprises a tubular structure,  
wherein the tubular structure comprises a mammalian blood vessel.

42. (Previously presented) The assembly of claim 41, wherein the mammalian blood vessel comprises a human blood vessel.

43. (Previously presented) The assembly of claim 22, wherein the blood vessel is secured to the expandable member.

44. (Previously presented) The assembly of claim 43, wherein the blood vessel is stitched to the expandable member.

45. (Previously presented) The assembly of claim 43, wherein the blood vessel is glued to the expandable member.

46. (Previously presented) The assembly of claim 43, wherein the blood vessel is welded to the expandable member.

47. (Previously presented) The assembly of claim 43, wherein a first portion of the blood vessel is fixed to a second portion of the blood vessel to secure the blood vessel to the expandable member.

48. (Canceled)

49. (Previously presented) The assembly of claim 22, further comprising a catheter assembly disposed within the longitudinal passage to expand the expandable member.

50. (Previously presented) The assembly of claim 22, wherein the expandable member is deformable.

51. (Previously presented) A method of preparing a graft prosthesis for use within a body comprising the steps of:

providing an expandable member having an interior surface defining a longitudinal passage, the expandable member being expandable from a first geometrically stable configuration to a second geometrically stable configuration; and  
providing a blood vessel adjacent to the interior surface of the expandable member.

52. (Canceled)

53. (Previously presented) The method of claim 51, further comprising the step of placing the blood vessel adjacent to an exterior surface of the expandable member.

54. (Previously presented) The method of claim 51, wherein the blood vessel is at least as long as the longitudinal passage.

55. (Previously presented) The method of claim 54, further comprising the step of placing the blood vessel so that a portion of the blood vessel extends beyond at least one end of the longitudinal passage.

56. (Previously presented) The method of claim 55, further comprising the step of folding the portion of the blood vessel that extends beyond the end of the longitudinal passage back over a first end of the expandable member to a position adjacent to an exterior surface of the expandable member.

57. (Previously presented) The method of claim 56, further comprising the step of folding the extending portion of the blood vessel back to form a sleeve.

58. (Canceled)

59. (Canceled)

60. (Canceled)

61. (Previously presented) The method of claim 51, further comprising the step of securing the blood vessel to the expandable member.

62. (Previously presented) The method of claim 51, further comprising the step of stitching the blood vessel to the expandable member.

63. (Previously presented) The method of claim 51, further comprising the step of gluing the blood vessel to the expandable member.

64. (Canceled)

65. (Canceled)

66. (Previously presented) The method of claim 51, further comprising the step of disposing the graft prosthesis in a delivery sheath.

67. (Previously presented) The method of claim 51, further comprising the step of disposing a catheter assembly within the longitudinal passage.

68. (Previously presented) An assembly for use within a body comprising:  
a deformable member having an interior surface defining a longitudinal passage, the deformable member being deformable from a first geometrically stable configuration to a second geometrically stable configuration; and  
a blood vessel disposed adjacent to the interior surface of the deformable member.

69. (Previously presented) The assembly of claim 68, wherein the deformable member is cylindrical-shaped.

70. (Previously presented) The assembly of claim 68, wherein the deformable member comprises a stent.

71. (Previously presented) The assembly of claim 68, wherein the deformable member has a first configuration to allow for insertion of the assembly into a lumen in the body.

72. (Previously presented) The assembly of claim 71, wherein the deformable member has a second configuration whereby a diameter of the longitudinal passageway approximately matches a diameter of the lumen.

73. (Canceled)

74. (Previously presented) The assembly of claim 68, wherein the blood vessel is disposed adjacent to an exterior surface of the deformable member.

75. (Previously presented) The assembly of claim 68, wherein the blood vessel is at least as long as the longitudinal passage.

76. (Previously presented) The assembly of claim 68, wherein a portion of the blood vessel extends beyond at least one end of the longitudinal passage.

77. (Previously presented) The assembly of claim 76, wherein the portion of the blood vessel that extends beyond the end of the longitudinal passage folds back over a first end of the deformable member to a position adjacent to an exterior surface of the deformable member.

78. (Previously presented) The assembly of claim 77, wherein the extending portion of the blood vessel folds back to form a sleeve.

79. (Canceled)

80. (Canceled)

81. (Canceled)

82. (Canceled)

83. (Canceled)

84. (Previously presented) An assembly for insertion into a body passageway comprising:

a deformable member having an interior surface defining a longitudinal passage, the deformable member being deformable from a first geometrically stable configuration to a second geometrically stable configuration; and

a tissue disposed adjacent to the interior surface of the deformable member, wherein the tissue comprises a body tissue, wherein the body tissue comprises a blood vessel.

85. (Previously presented) The assembly of claim 84, wherein the blood vessel comprises at least one of a recently extracted blood vessel and a thawed blood vessel which had been previously extracted and frozen.

86. (Previously presented) The assembly of claim 84, wherein the blood vessel comprises a vein.

87. (Previously presented) An assembly for insertion into a body passageway comprising:

a deformable member having an interior surface defining a longitudinal passage, the deformable member being deformable from a first geometrically stable configuration to a second geometrically stable configuration; and

a tissue disposed adjacent to the interior surface of the deformable member, wherein the tissue comprises a tubular structure, wherein the tubular structure comprises a mammalian blood vessel.

88. (Previously presented) The assembly of claim 87, wherein the mammalian blood vessel comprises a human blood vessel.

89. (Previously presented) The assembly of claim 68, wherein the blood vessel is secured to the deformable member.

90. (Previously presented) The assembly of claim 89, wherein the blood vessel is stitched to the deformable member.

91. (Previously presented) The assembly of claim 89, wherein the blood vessel is glued to the deformable member.

92. (Canceled)

93. (Canceled)

94. (Previously presented) The assembly of claim 68, further comprising a delivery sheath which facilitates insertion of the deformable member and the blood vessel into the body.

95. (Previously presented) The assembly of claim 68, further comprising a catheter assembly disposed within the longitudinal passage to expand the deformable member.

96. (Previously presented) A method of preparing a graft prosthesis for use within a body comprising the steps of:

providing a deformable member having an interior surface defining a longitudinal passage, the deformable member being deformable from a first geometrically stable configuration to a second geometrically stable configuration; and

providing a blood vessel adjacent to the interior surface of the deformable member.

97. (Canceled)

98. (Previously presented) The method of claim 96, further comprising the step of placing the blood vessel adjacent to an exterior surface of the deformable member.

99. (Previously presented) The method of claim 96, wherein the blood vessel is at least as long as the longitudinal passage.

100. (Previously presented) The method of claim 99, further comprising the step of placing the blood vessel so that a portion of the blood vessel extends beyond at least one end of the longitudinal passage.

101. (Previously presented) The method of claim 100, further comprising the step of folding the portion of the blood vessel that extends beyond the end of the longitudinal passage back over a first end of the deformable member to a position adjacent to an exterior surface of the deformable member.

102. (Previously presented) The method of claim 101, further comprising the step of folding the extending portion of the blood vessel back to form a sleeve.

103. (Canceled)

104. (Canceled)

105. (Canceled)

106. (Previously presented) The method of claim 96, further comprising the step of securing the blood vessel to the deformable member.

107. (Previously presented) The method of claim 96, further comprising the step of stitching the blood vessel to the deformable member.

108. (Previously presented) The method of claim 96, further comprising the step of gluing the blood vessel to the deformable member.

109. (Canceled)

110. (Canceled)

111. (Previously presented) The method of claim 96, further comprising the step of disposing the graft prosthesis in a delivery sheath.

112. (Previously presented) The method of claim 96, further comprising the step of disposing a catheter assembly within the longitudinal passage.

113. (Previously presented) An assembly for use within a body comprising:  
an expandable stent that is expandable from a first geometrically stable configuration to a second geometrically stable configuration; and

a blood vessel configured to avoid exposure of the expandable stent to circulating body fluids when the assembly is inserted into the body.

114. (Previously presented) An assembly for use within a body comprising:  
a deformable stent that is deformable from a first geometrically stable configuration to a second geometrically stable configuration; and  
a blood vessel configured to avoid exposure of the deformable stent to circulating body fluids when the assembly is inserted into the body.

115. (Previously presented) The method of claim 51, wherein the expandable member comprises a stent.

116. (Previously presented) The method of claim 96, wherein the deformable member comprises a stent.

117. (Previously presented) An assembly for use within a body to form a portion of a body passageway comprising:  
an expandable member that is expandable from a first geometrically stable configuration to a second geometrically stable configuration; and  
a blood vessel disposed adjacent to the expandable member,  
wherein the assembly is constructed such that the assembly forms the portion of the body passageway after expansion of the expandable member.

118. (Previously presented) The assembly of claim 117, wherein the assembly is for insertion into the body passageway.

119. (Previously presented) The assembly of claim 117, wherein the expandable member comprises a stent.

120. (Previously presented) The assembly of claim 117, wherein the expandable member has a first configuration to allow for insertion of the assembly into the body, and wherein the expandable member has a second configuration when the assembly forms the portion of the body passageway.



121. (Previously presented) The assembly of claim 117, wherein the blood vessel is disposed adjacent to an interior surface of the expandable member.

122. (Previously presented) The assembly of claim 117, wherein the blood vessel is disposed adjacent to an exterior surface of the expandable member.

123. (Previously presented) The assembly of claim 117, wherein the expandable member has an interior surface defining a longitudinal passage, and wherein the blood vessel is at least as long as the longitudinal passage.

124. (Previously presented) The assembly of claim 117, wherein the expandable member has an interior surface defining a longitudinal passage, and wherein a portion of the blood vessel extends beyond at least one end of the longitudinal passage.

125. (Previously presented) The assembly of claim 117, wherein the blood vessel is secured to the expandable member.

126. (Previously presented) The assembly of claim 117, further comprising a delivery sheath which facilitates insertion of the expandable member and the blood vessel into the body.

127. (Previously presented) The assembly of claim 117, further comprising a device disposed within the expandable member to expand the expandable member.

128. (Previously presented) The assembly of claim 117, wherein the expandable member is deformable.

129. (Previously presented) An assembly for [insertion into] use within a body to form a portion of a body passageway comprising:

a deformable member that is deformable from a first geometrically stable configuration to a second geometrically stable configuration; and

a blood vessel disposed adjacent to the deformable member,

wherein the assembly is constructed such that the assembly forms the portion of the body passageway after deformation of the deformable member.

130. (Previously presented) The assembly of claim 129, wherein the assembly is for insertion into the body passageway.

131. (Previously presented) The assembly of claim 129, wherein the deformable member comprises a stent.

132. (Previously presented) The assembly of claim 129, wherein the deformable member has a first configuration to allow for insertion of the assembly into the body, and wherein the deformable member has a second configuration when the assembly forms the portion of the body passageway.

133. (Previously presented) The assembly of claim 129, wherein the blood vessel is disposed adjacent to an interior surface of the deformable member.

134. (Previously presented) The assembly of claim 129, wherein the blood vessel is disposed adjacent to an exterior surface of the deformable member.

135. (Previously presented) The assembly of claim 129, wherein the deformable member has an interior surface defining a longitudinal passage, and wherein the blood vessel is at least as long as the longitudinal passage.

136. (Previously presented) The assembly of claim 129, wherein the deformable member has an interior surface defining a longitudinal passage, and wherein a portion of the blood vessel extends beyond at least one end of the longitudinal passage.

137. (Previously presented) The assembly of claim 129, wherein the blood vessel is secured to the deformable member.

138. (Previously presented) The assembly of claim 129, further comprising a delivery sheath which facilitates insertion of the deformable member and the blood vessel into the body.

139. (Previously presented) The assembly of claim 129, further comprising a device disposed within the deformable member to deform the deformable member.

140. (Previously presented) The assembly of claim 129, wherein the deformable member is expandable.

141. (Currently amended) A method of forming a portion of a body passageway comprising the steps of:  
providing an expandable member;  
providing a blood vessel adjacent to an interior surface of the expandable member;  
inserting the expandable member and the blood vessel into the body; and  
expanding the expandable member subsequent to inserting the expandable member and the blood vessel into the body.

142. (Previously presented) The method of claim 141, wherein the expandable member is deformable.

143. (Previously presented) The method of claim 141, wherein the expandable member comprises a stent.

144. (Canceled)

145. (Previously presented) The method of claim 141, wherein the step of providing the blood vessel includes providing the blood vessel adjacent to an exterior surface of the expandable member.

146. (Previously presented) The method of claim 141, wherein the expandable member has an interior surface defining a longitudinal passage, and wherein the blood vessel is at least as long as the longitudinal passage.

147. (Previously presented) The method of claim 141, wherein the expandable member has an interior surface defining a longitudinal passage, and wherein a portion of the blood vessel extends beyond at least one end of the longitudinal passage.

148. (Previously presented) The method of claim 141, wherein the step of expanding the expandable member causes the expandable member to assume an expanded configuration, and wherein the expandable member in the expanded configuration and the blood vessel form the portion of the body passageway.

149. (Previously presented) The method of claim 141, wherein the step of expanding the expandable member includes expanding the blood vessel.

150. (Previously presented) The method of claim 141, wherein the step of expanding the expandable member includes actuating a device disposed within the expandable member to expand the expandable member.

151. (Previously presented) The method of claim 141, further comprising the step of securing the blood vessel to the expandable member.

152. (Previously presented) The method of claim 141, further comprising the step of providing a delivery sheath to facilitate the insertion of the expandable member and the blood vessel into the body.

153. (Previously presented) A method of forming a portion of a body passageway comprising the steps of:

- providing a deformable member;
- providing a blood vessel adjacent to the deformable member;
- inserting the deformable member and the blood vessel into the body; and
- deforming the deformable member subsequent to inserting the deformable member and the blood vessel into the body such that the deformable member maintains a deformed configuration.

154. (Previously presented) The method of claim 153, wherein the deformable member is expandable.

155. (Previously presented) The method of claim 153, wherein the deformable member comprises a stent.

156. (Previously presented) The method of claim 153, wherein the step of providing the blood vessel includes providing the blood vessel adjacent to an interior surface of the deformable member.

157. (Previously presented) The method of claim 153, wherein the step of providing the blood vessel includes providing the blood vessel adjacent to an exterior surface of the deformable member.

158. (Previously presented) The method of claim 153, wherein the deformable member has an interior surface defining a longitudinal passage, and wherein the blood vessel is at least as long as the longitudinal passage.

159. (Previously presented) The method of claim 153, wherein the deformable member has an interior surface defining a longitudinal passage, and wherein a portion of the blood vessel extends beyond at least one end of the longitudinal passage.

160. (Previously presented) The method of claim 153, wherein the deformable member in the deformed configuration and the blood vessel form the portion of the body passageway.

161. (Previously presented) The method of claim 153, wherein the step of deforming the deformable member includes expanding the blood vessel.

162. (Previously presented) The method of claim 153, wherein the step of deforming the deformable member includes actuating a device disposed within the deformable member to deform the deformable member.

163. (Previously presented) The method of claim 153, further comprising the step of securing the blood vessel to the deformable member.

164. (Previously presented) The method of claim 153, further comprising the step of providing a delivery sheath to facilitate the insertion of the deformable member and the blood vessel into the body.

165. (Previously presented) An assembly for use within a body comprising:  
an expandable member having an interior surface defining a longitudinal passage, the expandable member being expandable to an extent necessary to secure the expandable member relative to a body passageway; and  
a blood vessel disposed adjacent to the interior surface of the expandable member.

166. (Previously presented) A method of preparing a graft prosthesis for use within a body comprising the steps of:  
providing an expandable member having an interior surface defining a longitudinal passage, the expandable member being expandable to an extent necessary to secure the expandable member relative to a body passageway; and  
providing a blood vessel adjacent to the interior surface of the expandable member.

167. (Previously presented) An assembly for use within a body comprising:  
a deformable member having an interior surface defining a longitudinal passage, the deformable member being deformable to an extent necessary to secure the deformable member relative to a body passageway; and  
a blood vessel disposed adjacent to the interior surface of the deformable member.

168. (Previously presented) A method of preparing a graft prosthesis for use within a body comprising the steps of:  
providing a deformable member having an interior surface defining a longitudinal passage, the deformable member being deformable to an extent necessary to secure the deformable member relative to a body passageway; and  
providing a blood vessel adjacent to the interior surface of the deformable member.

169. (Previously presented) An assembly for use within a body comprising:  
an expandable stent that is expandable to an extent necessary to secure the expandable stent relative to a body passageway; and  
a blood vessel configured to avoid exposure of the expandable stent to circulating body fluids when the assembly is inserted into the body.

170. (Previously presented) An assembly for use within a body comprising:  
a deformable stent that is deformable to an extent necessary to secure the deformable stent relative to a body passageway; and  
a blood vessel configured to avoid exposure of the deformable stent to circulating body fluids when the assembly is inserted into the body.

171. (Currently amended) An assembly for use within a body to form a portion of a body passageway comprising:  
an expandable member that is expandable to an extent necessary to secure the expandable member relative to the body passageway; and  
a blood vessel disposed adjacent to an interior surface of the expandable member, wherein the assembly is constructed such that the assembly forms the portion of the body passageway after expansion of the expandable member.

172. (Previously presented) An assembly for use within a body to form a portion of a body passageway comprising:  
a deformable member that is deformable to an extent necessary to secure the deformable member relative to the body passageway; and  
a blood vessel disposed adjacent to the deformable member, wherein the assembly is constructed such that the assembly forms the portion of the body passageway after deformation of the deformable member.

173. (Canceled)

174. (Canceled)

175. (Canceled)

176. (Previously presented) An assembly for use within a body comprising:

an expandable member having an interior surface defining a longitudinal passage, the expandable member being expandable from a first geometrically stable configuration to a second geometrically stable configuration; and

a tissue disposed adjacent to the interior surface of the expandable member, wherein the tissue comprises a body tissue, wherein the body tissue comprises a blood vessel.

177. (Previously presented) The assembly of claim 176, wherein the blood vessel comprises at least one of a recently extracted blood vessel and a thawed blood vessel which had been previously extracted and frozen.

178. (Previously presented) The assembly of claim 176, wherein the blood vessel comprises a vein.

179. (Previously presented) An assembly for use within a body comprising:  
an expandable member having an interior surface defining a longitudinal passage, the expandable member being expandable from a first geometrically stable configuration to a second geometrically stable configuration; and  
a tissue disposed adjacent to the interior surface of the expandable member, wherein the tissue comprises a tubular structure, wherein the tubular structure comprises a mammalian blood vessel.

180. (Previously presented) The assembly of claim 179, wherein the mammalian blood vessel comprises a human blood vessel.

181. (Canceled)

182. (Canceled)

183. (Canceled)

184. (Canceled)

185. (Canceled)

186. (Canceled)

187. (Canceled)

188. (Canceled)



189. (Canceled)

190. (Previously presented) An assembly for use within a body comprising:  
a deformable member having an interior surface defining a longitudinal passage, the  
deformable member being deformable from a first geometrically stable configuration to a  
second geometrically stable configuration; and  
a tissue disposed adjacent to the interior surface of the deformable member,  
wherein the tissue comprises a body tissue,  
wherein the body tissue comprises a blood vessel.

191. (Previously presented) The assembly of claim 190, wherein the blood vessel  
comprises at least one of a recently extracted blood vessel and a thawed blood vessel which  
had been previously extracted and frozen.

192. (Previously presented) The assembly of claim 190, wherein the blood vessel  
comprises a vein.

193. (Previously presented) An assembly for use within a body comprising:  
a deformable member having an interior surface defining a longitudinal passage, the  
deformable member being deformable from a first geometrically stable configuration to a  
second geometrically stable configuration; and  
a tissue disposed adjacent to the interior surface of the deformable member,  
wherein the tissue comprises a tubular structure,  
wherein the tubular structure comprises a mammalian blood vessel.

194. (Previously presented) The assembly of claim 193, wherein the mammalian  
blood vessel comprises a human blood vessel.

195. (Canceled)

196. (Canceled)

197. (Canceled)

198. (Canceled)

199. (Canceled)

200. (Canceled)

201. (Canceled)

202. (Previously presented) An assembly comprising:

an expandable member having an interior surface defining a longitudinal passage, the expandable member being expandable from a first geometrically stable configuration to a second geometrically stable configuration; and

a blood vessel disposed adjacent to the interior surface of the expandable member when the assembly is inserted in a body.

203. (Previously presented) An assembly comprising:

a deformable member having an interior surface defining a longitudinal passage, the deformable member being deformable from a first geometrically stable configuration to a second geometrically stable configuration; and

a blood vessel disposed adjacent to the interior surface of the deformable member when the assembly is inserted in a body.

204. (Previously presented) An assembly comprising:

an expandable member having an interior surface defining a longitudinal passage, the expandable member being expandable to an extent necessary to secure the expandable member relative to a body passageway; and

a blood vessel disposed adjacent to the interior surface of the expandable member when the assembly is inserted in a body.

205. (Previously presented) An assembly comprising:

a deformable member having an interior surface defining a longitudinal passage, the deformable member being deformable to an extent necessary to secure the deformable member relative to a body passageway; and

a blood vessel disposed adjacent to the interior surface of the deformable member when the assembly is inserted in a body.